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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,576	09/27/2001	Yasuhiro Takishima	011151	9689
38834	7590	03/03/2004	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			WONG, ALLEN C	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2613		3
DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A2e

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/963,576	TAKISHIMA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Allen Wong	2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of paper #2 submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because of the following informalities: For claim 1, on page 9, line 6, the term "it" needs to be further defined since it appears that the term "it" seem to correspond to "an original picture", and on line 13, the term "it" seems to correspond to "said first original picture". Also, for claim 3, on page 10, line 10, the term "it" seems to refer to "said i-th compensated original picture". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Girod (US 6,480,541).

Regarding claim 1, Girod discloses an apparatus for dividing, compressing and transmitting video data that uses a plurality of channels for transmission (fig.2), at least comprising:

a first encoding section for encoding an original picture and transmitting it with a first channel (fig.2, element 114a and 116a form a first encoding section of an original picture, from "VIDEO IN", and transmitting the encoded original picture with a first channel at output 122a);

a first compensation section for generating a first compensated original picture obtained by adding and subtracting to/from said original picture a value obtained by dispersing an encoding error occurred in said first encoding section to the remaining channels (fig.2, element 120a is the first motion compensation section for generating a first compensated original picture obtained by adding and subtracting to/from said original picture, where the element 112a receives the original picture and that element 119a receives the original picture, via first encoder section elements 114a and 116a and first decoder section 118a, and also, after decoding of IDCT 118a, the quantization errors are dispersed through motion compensation section 120a, and that the output of motion compensation section 120a is fed backward to element 119a and down to the second encoder section 114b through switch 132 for dispersing the encoding error occurred in the first encoding section to the remaining channels); and

a second encoding section for encoding said first compensated original picture and transmitting it through a second channel (fig.2, elements 114b and 116b comprise a second encoding section for encoding the first compensated original picture obtained from the output of element 119a, and transmitting the first original compensated original picture through a second channel at output element 122b).

Regarding claim 3, Girod discloses an apparatus for dividing, compressing and transmitting video data according to claim 1, further comprising:

an i-th ($i = 2, 3, \dots, N-1$) compensation section for generating an i-th compensated original picture obtained by adding and subtracting to/from said original picture a value obtained by dispersing an encoding error occurred in an i-th encoding section to the remaining channels (fig.2, element 120b is the second or i-th compensation section for generating a second or i-th compensated original picture obtained by adding and subtracting to/from said original picture, where the element 112b receives the original picture and that element 119b receives the original picture, via second encoder section elements 114b and 116b and second decoder section 118b, and also, after decoding of IDCT 118b, the quantization errors are dispersed through motion compensation section 120b, and that the output of motion compensation section 120b is fed backward to element 119b and down to the third or $(i+1)$ -th encoder section 114c through switch 134 for dispersing the encoding error occurred in the second or i-th encoding section to the remaining channels); and

an $(i+1)$ -th encoding section for encoding said i-th compensated original picture and transmitting it through an $(i+1)$ -th channel (fig.2, elements 114c and 116c form the

third or (i+1)-th encoding section for encoding said i-th compensated original picture, and transmitting the i-th compensated original picture through a third or (i+1)-th channel).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Girod discloses a method and apparatus for providing scalable pre-compressed digital video with reduced quantization based artifacts. Nishihara et al (US 4,903,317) disclose an image processing apparatus. The prior art does not disclose the specifics of claim 2, especially the limitation:

$$S(2) = \{(S(1) - C(1)) / (N-1) + S(1) \dots,$$

where S(2) is first compensated original picture, and S(1) is the original picture, C(1) is the decoded data, and N is the total number of channels. Also, the prior art does not disclose the specifics of claim 4, where the i-th compensated original picture is designated as S(i+1):

$$S(i+1) = \{S(1) \times i - \sum C(k) / (N-1) + S(1) \dots \text{ for } k=1 \text{ to } i\}.$$

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

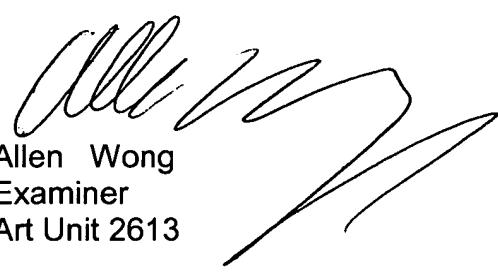
Nishihara et al (US 4,903,317) disclose an image processing apparatus.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (703) 306-5978. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Allen Wong
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

AW
3/1/04